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REFERENCE HAND-BOOK OF OBSTETRIC NURSING. By W. Reynolds Wilson, M.D., Visiting Physician to the Philadelphia Lying-in Charity Hospital, Member of the American Pædiatric Society, etc. Illustrated. 32mo of 325 pages. Flexible leather binding. Price, \$1.25. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia.

Uniform with Beck's "Reference Hand-Book of Nursing and MacFarlane's "Gynæcology for Nurses," in smart red leather with the title lettered in gold, this little book will commend itself to all who like a pretty cover with good paper and printing inside.

Though condensed, there is something of everything pertaining to pregnancy, the management of labor, the care of the mother before, during, and after labor, and the care of the infant for the first months. Easily carried about, it is just the sort of book to be most useful for a handy reference.

DISEASES OF CHILDREN—FOR NURSES. By Robert S. McCombs, M.D., Assistant Physician to the Dispensary, and Instructor of Nurses at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Assistant Physician to the Medical Dispensary of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Illustrated. Price, \$2.00 net. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia.

This book embodies a series of lectures given to the nurses of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the original notes for which have been considerably amplified by the author, the whole forming the present work which, beside treating of the nursing in children's diseases gives a good deal of attention to the diagnosis and treatment of the same. The book also includes infant feeding, therapeutic measures employed in childhood, treatment for emergencies, prophylaxis, and hygiene. It is profusely illustrated, many of the plates being colored.

BORDERLAND STUDIES. Miscellaneous Addresses and Essays Pertaining to Medicine, and the Medical Profession, and their Relation to General Science and Thought. By George M. Gould, M.D., Formerly Editor of the *Medical News*; *The Philadelphia Medical Journal*; *American Medicine*; Author of a series of Medical Dictionaries, Biographic Clinics, etc., etc. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

This volume is made up of reprinted essays gathered from a number of sources where they were practically inaccessible to the general reader. The happy thought which prompted the author to collect and present

these essays is to be commended, as they form excellent reading on the whole. One cannot help wishing, however, that Dr. Gould had been actuated by the æsthetic taste which permeates his writing as a whole, for a couple of chapters make hard reading. But he wishes to be recognized as a fighter as well as a poet and philosopher and so he brings in some very grisly matters and calls for help to do battle upon them. The subjects cover a large field and he skips from one to another with great intellectual agility, keeping the reader's brain pleasantly tickled with all sorts of novel suggestions about things presented with whimsical originality. There is much in the book here and there to conduce to a profound thankfulness that one is born in the later days of the world when the battle against "cold, darkness, and filth, these ancient enemies of our life and happiness" is gained. But he tells us that we have overdone things and pleads for more room, room for playgrounds, gardens, orchards, fields, and woods. Essay number nine, "Some Ethical Questions," particularly recommends itself to editors in general but particularly does the author sympathize with the editor of the professional journal. Chapter 13, "An Unknown Hero's Life," is the most touching narrative of a man's struggle for life against the most overwhelming odds. A man who from frost-bite, acquired while lashed to a wreck, lost his feet, all his fingers, one eye, and part of the vision of the remaining one. After nearly twenty years constantly recurring trouble with the scars of the original wounds, which continually break down, requiring fresh operations, this man is alive and is maintaining himself; but one must read the story to appreciate the man's struggle and Dr. Gould's sympathy with it.

The essay on the "History of the House" is the history of civilization in little, and is most charmingly told. Altogether the book is delightful but in the reviewer's opinion Chapters 4 and 5 treat of matters too terribly serious to be classed with the rest of the essays.

THE TELEPHONE AS A FACTOR IN THE TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE was recently made the subject of an interrogation in the English Parliament. In England the telephone service is a government affair, being conducted by the postal authorities. The question was brought up by an article by Dr. Allan, published recently in the *Lancet*, in which the statement was made that disease germs were found in one out of six public telephones. The Postmaster-General declares that none of the numerous devices for the prevention of infection of the transmitters has proved practicable, and that the only safeguard against infection is frequent washing.